

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are presented below whether or not an amendment has been made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Original)** A system for monitoring and assessing the performance of a project, the system comprising:
 - a computer; and
 - a software program associated with the computer, the software program and computer operable in combination to:
 - receive project task data and earned value information from a project management software file or a historical data file;
 - determine cost depletion date (CDD) information from the project task data and earned value information; and
 - display the cost depletion date information.
2. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the cost depletion date information includes cost depletion date related information.
3. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the software program and computer are further operable to
 - determine historical, present, and projected earned value information; and
 - display the historical, present, and projected earned value information.
4. **(Original)** The system of Claim 3, wherein the software program and computer are operable to determine the CDD information by accessing a historical data file.
5. **(Original)** The system of Claim 4, wherein the software program and computer are operable to determine the historical earned value information by decomposing project task data.

6. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the software program and computer are operable to obtain the CDD information by:

calculating a cumulative cost performance index (CPI) and a cumulative schedule performance index (SPI) at a current reporting date (CRD) from the project task data, or the earned value information, or both;

utilizing the cumulative CPI and SPI to calculate a cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) and a cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP) for each reporting period from the CRD to a project baseline finish date; and

determining a cost depletion date at which the cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) is equal to or greater than the budget at completion (BAC).

7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 6, wherein the reporting period is selected from the group consisting of a day, a week, a month, a quarter, a year, and a decade.

8. **(Original)** The system of Claim 6, wherein the cumulative cost performance index (CPI) and the cumulative schedule performance index (SPI) are replaced by arithmetic, weighted arithmetic, geometric, or harmonic mean statistical CPI and SPI obtained from the SPI and CPI from each reporting period from a start date to the current reporting date.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 6, wherein the software program and computer are further operable to:

store in a a [[the]] data file for each reporting period from the CRD to a project baseline finish date information selected from the group consisting of the cost depletion date, the calculated cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP), the calculated cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP), the corresponding reporting period, and combinations thereof.

10. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the software program and computer are operable to determine the CDD information by:

calculating a cumulative cost performance index (CPI) and a cumulative schedule performance index (SPI) at a current reporting date (CRD) from the project task data, or the earned value information, or both;

utilizing the cumulative CPI and SPI to calculate a cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) and a cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP) for a successive reporting period following the CRD; and

setting a cost depletion date equal to the reporting period being analyzed if the cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) is equal to or greater than the budget at completion (BAC);

wherein the last two steps are repeated for each successive reporting period until a project baseline finish date is reached.

11. **(Original)** The system of Claim 10, wherein the reporting period is selected from the group consisting of a day, a week, a month, a quarter, a year, and a decade.

12. **(Original)** The system of Claim 10, wherein the system is further operable to:

statistically analyze a plurality of cost depletion dates to obtain a probability of each cost depletion date; and

display the plurality of cost depletion dates and their corresponding probabilities.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 10, wherein the software program and computer are further operable to:

store in a a ~~[[the]]~~ data file for each reporting period from the CRD to a project baseline finish date information selected from the group consisting of the cost depletion date, the calculated cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP), the calculated cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP), the corresponding reporting period, and combinations thereof.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method of monitoring and assessing the performance of a project, comprising:

receiving project task data and earned value information from a project management software file or a historical data file;

determining cost depletion date (CDD) information from the project task data and earned value information; ~~[[and]]~~

displaying the cost depletion date information; and

wherein receiving project task data and earned value information, determining cost depletion date (CDD) information, and displaying the cost depletion date information are carried out electronically.

15. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, wherein the cost depletion date information includes cost depletion date related information.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~system~~ of Claim 14, wherein a ~~[[the]]~~ software program and computer are operable to determine the CDD information by accessing a historical data file.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~system~~ of Claim 16, wherein the software program and computer are operable to determine a ~~[[the]]~~ historical earned value information by decomposing project task data.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, wherein the CDD information is obtained by:

calculating a cumulative cost performance index (CPI) and a cumulative schedule performance index (SPI) at a current reporting date (CRD) from the project task data, or the earned value information, or both;

utilizing the cumulative CPI and SPI to calculate the cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) and the cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP) for each reporting period from the CRD to a project baseline finish date; and

determining a cost depletion date at which the cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) is equal to or greater than the budget at completion (BAC).

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the reporting period is selected from the group consisting of a day, a week, a month, a quarter, a year, and a decade.

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 18, wherein the cumulative cost performance index (CPI) and the cumulative schedule performance index (SPI) are replaced by arithmetic, weighted arithmetic, geometric, or harmonic mean statistical CPI and SPI obtained from the SPI and CPI from each reporting period from a start date to the current reporting date.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 18 further comprising:
storing in a [[the]] data file for each reporting period from the CRD to a project baseline finish date information selected from the group consisting of the cost depletion date, the calculated cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP), the calculated cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP), the corresponding reporting period, and combinations thereof.

22. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, wherein the CDD information is obtained by:

calculating a cumulative cost performance index (CPI) and a cumulative schedule performance index (SPI) at a current reporting date (CRD) from the project task data, or the earned value information, or both;

utilizing the cumulative CPI and SPI to calculate a cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) and a cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP) for a successive reporting period following the CRD; and

setting a cost depletion date equal to the reporting period being analyzed if the cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP) is equal to or greater than the budget at completion (BAC);

wherein the last two steps are repeated for each successive reporting period until a project baseline finish date is reached.

23. **(Original)** The method of Claim 22, wherein the reporting period is selected from the group consisting of a day, a week, a month, a quarter, a year, and a decade.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 22 further comprising:
storing in a [[the]] data file for each reporting period from the CRD to a project baseline finish date information selected from the group consisting of the cost depletion date, the calculated cumulative actual cost of work performed (ACWP), the calculated cumulative budgeted cost of work performed (BCWP), the corresponding reporting period, and combinations thereof.

25. **(Original)** The method of Claim 22, further comprising:
statistically analyzing a plurality of cost depletion dates to obtain a probability of each cost depletion date; and
displaying the plurality of cost depletion dates and their corresponding probabilities.